

New Jersey

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REPORT

OF THE

JOINT COMMITTEE

OF

COUNCIL AND ASSEMBLY,

APPOINTED TO SETTLE THE ACCOUNTS OF THE STATE-PRISON.

TRENTON:

PRINTED BY JOSEPH JUSTICE.

1830.

REPORT

JOINT FOR THE

COUNCIL AND ASSOCIATION

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THEOLOGY

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REPORT.

THE Joint Committee, of Council and Assembly, appointed to settle the accounts of the State-Prison, beg leave to report:

That they have carefully examined the accounts submitted, and have compared them so far as was considered necessary with the entries in the books, and with the vouchers.

They find the following to be the state of the monied concerns of the institution, as exhibited under each respective head.

PROVISION ACCOUNT.

The amount of provisions on hand on the 1st of October, 1828, as per inventory and valuation then made, was	\$240 80
Amount expended from that time to the 30th September, 1829, was	1725 27 $\frac{1}{4}$
Making whole amount of provisions	<hr/> \$1966 07 $\frac{1}{4}$
From this sum is to be deducted	
amount sold by the keeper	\$103 97 $\frac{1}{2}$
Value of provisions on hand as per inventory	268 90
	} 372 87 $\frac{1}{2}$
Leaving amount expended for provisions for the whole year	<hr/> \$1593 19 $\frac{3}{4}$ <hr/>

CLOTHING ACCOUNT.

Amount on hand, 30th September, 1828 as per inventory	\$240 51
Amount expended from that time to 30th Sept. 1829,	536 27
Making whole amount for clothing	<hr/> \$776 78
From this is to be deducted amt. received for clothing made by the prisoners, &c.	
Amount on hand, 1st. Oct. 1829, as per inventory	\$41 66
	} 269 61
Leaving whole amount expended for clothing for the year	<hr/> \$507 17 <hr/>

INCIDENTAL ACCOUNT.

Amount of inventory, 1st. October, 1828	\$307 00 $\frac{1}{2}$
Amount expended chargeable to this account	397 36 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<hr/>
Whole amount charged to this account	\$704 37
From which is to be deducted ar- ticles sold, &c.	\$42 26 $\frac{1}{4}$ }
Amount of inventory, 1st. Oct. 1829	316 98 }
	<hr/>
Leaving amount chargeable to this account for the whole year	\$345 12 $\frac{3}{4}$

FURNITURE ACCOUNT.

Amount of inventory, 1st. October, 1828	\$893 36 $\frac{1}{2}$
Amount expended up to 1st. October, 1829	199 88
	<hr/>
Making whole amount	\$1093 24 $\frac{1}{2}$
From which is to be deducted amt. received on sale of ten plate stove	8 00 }
Amount of inventory, 1st Oct. 1829	1069 09 }
	<hr/>
Leaving amount expended on this account for the year	\$18 15 $\frac{1}{2}$

PRISON REPAIRS.

Amount of inventory, 1st. October, 1828	\$12 40
Amount expended up to 1st. Oct. 1829	70 37
	<hr/>
	\$82 72
From which deduct amount of inventory, 1st. Oct. 1829	16 83
	<hr/>
Leaving amount chargeable to this account for the whole year	\$65 94

FINAL ACCOUNT.

Amount of inventory, 1st. October, 1828	\$45 00 $\frac{1}{2}$
Amount expended up to 1st. October, 1829	503 93 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<hr/>
	\$548 93 $\frac{1}{2}$
From which deduct 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cords of wood at \$4—\$5 }	35 00 }
Amount of inventory, 1st. Oct. 1829	30 }
	<hr/>
Leaving amount expended for the whole year	\$513 93 $\frac{1}{2}$

NAIL FACTORY ACCOUNT.

Amount of inventory, 1st Oct. 1828		\$532 29½
Amount expended, 1 pair bellows and freight on sundry articles		5 80
Making whole amount expended		<u>538 09½</u>
This account is to be credited with articles sold	28 19¾	} 548 16¾
Amount of inventory, 1st October 1829	519 97	
Making a profit on this account for the year		<u>\$10 07¼</u>

COOPERAGE ACCOUNT.

Amount of inventory, Oct. 1st 1829		\$36 50
Amount expended, 500 hoop poles and portorage		5 87½
Making whole amount		<u>\$42 37½</u>
This acct. is credited with articles sold	26 30	} 58 11¼
Amount of inventory, Oct. 1, 1829	31 81¼	
Making profit on this account for the year		<u>\$15 73¾</u>

PLAISTER ACCOUNT.

Amount of inventory, Oct. 1, 1828		\$252 82½
Amount expended on this account for materi- al, &c.		145 62½
Making whole amount		<u>\$398 45</u>
This amount is to be credited with articles sold,	642 47½	} 753 80
Amount of inventory, 1st Oct. 1829	111 32½	
Making the profit on this account for the year		<u>\$355 35</u>

SUNDRY ACCOUNT.

Amount of inventory, Oct 1, 1828		\$94 95
Amount expended		25 05¾
Making in all the sum of		<u>\$120 00¾</u>

This account is credited with work done by prisoners	90 78 $\frac{1}{4}$ }	
Amount of inventory, Oct. 1, 1829	156 12 }	\$246 88 $\frac{3}{4}$
Making the profit on this account for the year		<u>126 88</u>

CORDWAINERS' ACCOUNT.

Amount of inventory, Oct. 1st, 1828		\$321 54 $\frac{1}{2}$
Amount of purchases, chargeable to this account		<u>675 12$\frac{1}{2}$</u>
Making whole amount		<u>\$996 67</u>

This account is to be credited with articles sold	1813 26 $\frac{1}{4}$ }	
Amount of inventory, Oct. 1, 1829	289 44 }	2102 70 $\frac{1}{4}$
Making the profit on this account for the year		<u>\$1106 03$\frac{1}{4}$</u>

WEAVING ACCOUNT.

Amount of inventory, Oct. 1st, 1828		578 10
Amount expended on this account		<u>469 67$\frac{3}{4}$</u>
Making in all		<u>\$1047 77$\frac{3}{4}$</u>

This account is credited with articles sold	2201 90 $\frac{1}{4}$ }	
Amt. of inventory, 1st Oct. 1829	554 79 }	2756 69 $\frac{1}{4}$
Making the profit, for the year, on this account		<u>\$1708 91$\frac{1}{4}$</u>

STONE SAWING ACCOUNT.

Amount of inventory, Oct. 1, 1828		\$50 00
Amount paid for carting, &c.		<u>6 50</u>
Making in all		<u>\$56 50</u>

This account is to be credited with sawing	\$35 82 }	
Amount of inventory, 1st Oct. 1829	50 00 }	85 82
Making profit on this account for the year		<u>\$29 32</u>

INTEREST ACCOUNT.

Amount paid chargeable to this account	\$11 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Amount credited to this account, being interest received	86 79
Making a profit on this account	<u>\$75 67$\frac{1}{2}$</u>

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Uncurrent notes on hand	\$34 00
Paid for transcribing law	4 00
	<u>\$38 00</u>

By the foregoing account it appears that the amount received at the Prison, is, on the

Nail Factory account	\$10 07 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cooperage account	15 37 $\frac{3}{4}$
Plaister account	355 35
Sundry account	126 88
Cordwainers' account	1106 03 $\frac{1}{4}$
Weaving account	1708 91 $\frac{1}{4}$
Stone-sawing account	29 32
Interest account	75 67 $\frac{1}{2}$
Making whole amount received	<u>\$3427 98$\frac{1}{4}$</u>

There has been expended on the

Provision account	\$1593 19 $\frac{3}{4}$
Clothing account	507 17
Incidental account	345 12 $\frac{3}{4}$
Furniture account	18 15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Prison repairs	65 94
Fuel account	513 93 $\frac{1}{2}$
Profit and loss account	38 00
Making the whole amount expended	<u>\$3081 52$\frac{1}{2}$</u>

Which being deducted from amount received, makes the gain or profit of the prison

\$346 46

The whole amount expended on account of the State Prison, from October 1st, 1828, to October 1st, 1829, is

\$8410 04 $\frac{3}{4}$

To which add salary for principal

keeper	\$800 00
4 assistant keepers, a. \$400,	1600 00
Clerk	500 00
Guard	67 50
Physician	75 00
Chaplain	75 00

\$3117 50

Making whole amount expended during the year \$11527 54 $\frac{3}{4}$

Amount received during same period, including amount on hand as per different inventories

8750 50 $\frac{3}{4}$

Making the loss of the institution for the year ending October 1st, 1829

\$2771 04

To ascertain the net gain over and above the expense of keeping the prisoners, exclusive of salaries, there must be added to the amount of profit, as before stated

\$346 46

For prison repairs, this not being properly chargeable to the expense of keeping prisoners

65 94

Counterfeit money received by former keeper and charged to this year's account

34 00

Paid for a copy of law, not part of prison expenses

4 00

Purchase made in 1828 and charged this year

140 00

Making the amount received over and above the expense for keeping prisoners

\$590 85

By referring to the statement, as made by the committee, in the year 1828, it will be found that the actual loss of the operations of that year of the prison, exclusive of keepers' salaries, was

\$400 41 $\frac{1}{2}$

To this add the amount gained this year, exclusive of salaries

590 85

Makes a difference in favour of the prison between the past year and the year preceding, of

\$991 26 $\frac{1}{2}$

The foregoing account does not shew the amount paid out of the treasury for the costs of prose-

education and transportation of prisoners, which by the treasurer's account appears to amount to	\$1759 52
To which add loss before stated	2771 04
Makes the actual loss of the institution for the year ending the 1st of October 1829,	<hr/> \$4530 56 <hr/>

From the accounts as presented by the Inspectors, it is altogether impossible to ascertain with accuracy, the actual expenditures and receipts of the institution, so far as it regards the expenses and labor of the prisoners.

These accounts shew the amount in value of articles on hand, on the first of October, 1828; the amount of purchases for one year up to October first, 1829; the amount chargeable, or to be credited, to each particular account for the year; and the amount in value of the articles on hand at the expiration of the year. And these accounts are divided and subdivided into as many heads as the ingenuity of book-keeping can suggest. The *same kind* of articles are debited and credited under different heads or accounts. But in all the variety, there is no *cash account* to be found; no account shewing, at one view, the amount of money expended, and the amount of money received, and for what the money was received and expended. It is by such an account, alone, that it is possible, with accuracy, to shew the true state of the institution, as it regards its monied concerns.

There were confined in the prison, on the first day of October, 1829, ninety prisoners. Of these, there were received, from the 1st of October, 1828, to the 1st of October, 1829, forty-four. There are fifty-four white men, *not one white woman*; twenty-nine free negro men; two free negro women; three negro men, slaves; and two negro women, slaves. There are eighty-three Americans; three English, and four Irish.

Seventy-nine are committed for the first offence; seven for the second; two for the third; and two for the fourth.

Sixteen are employed in shoe-making; twenty-six in weaving; thirteen in spooling; three as carpenters; one in basket-making; two in coopering; three as tailors; five in spinning; three in washing and attending cells; four in stone-sawing; one as a baker; two as cooks; two in sawing-wood, &c. &c. Three are unable to work, and there are six in solitary confinement.

The committee have thought it necessary to make a new inventory of what are considered the standing articles in the prison, which inventory is herewith submitted, marked—Ex-

hibit A. By comparing this inventory with the one, handed to the committee by the Inspectors, there appears a difference of *nine hundred and seventeen dollars and fifty cents*. The inventory and appraisalment made by the committee being so much less than the one made by the Inspectors.

All which is respectfully submitted.

A. HOWELL, }
AMZI DODD, } *Committee of Council.*

CHARLES HILLARD,
LITTLETON KIRKPATRICK, }
FERDINAND S. SCHENCK, } *Committee of*
ISAAC HINCHMAN, } *Assembly.*

The Committee appointed to settle the accounts of the State prison, and to which was assigned the additional duty of reporting a system of Prison discipline, beg leave further to report:

That in order to make a thorough investigation into the affairs of the prison, so far as it regards the discipline of the same, and the manner in which its affairs have been conducted, the legislature by resolution empowered the committee to send for persons and papers.

By virtue of this authority your committee have examined with great particularity into all the concerns of the institution, and have arranged the evidence under different heads.

The principal object has been to shew the difficulty, under the present construction and arrangement of the buildings, shops and offices, to enforce a proper discipline, and also to point out the expenses attendant on the present arrangement.

1st. ON THE CONSTRUCTION.

THE GUARD ROOM is on the north west corner of the building. It commands a view of neither the yard, the shops, the wings, or the walls of the prison: here the principal keeper, and the clerk, who acts as deputy, transact much of their business; and while they do this, they know nothing from actual observation, for the time being, of the conduct of the assistant keepers, or prisoners, in any part of the establishment. They might as well be placed in one of the solitary cells, so far as the inspection and control of the prison is concerned. The prisoners might rise upon the under keep-

ers, in the shops; the prisoners, in the cells of either the north or south wing, might make their escape; the sentinel, on the wall, might sleep at his post, and the principal keeper and his deputy, in the guard room, be so far removed from hearing, and cut off from sight, as to know nothing of it. Instead of this, the guard room should command, from one position, the range of cells, the whole yard, the prisoners in the shops, under their respective officers, and the centinel on the wall; then the principal keeper, from the guard room, or in his absence, his deputy, commands the whole establishment.

Again, the NIGHT ROOMS are not sufficiently numerous to separate the men. They are put two, three and four, in a room; and the rooms are so constructed, that the men can freely communicate from window to window, and from door to door, and from the building to the street. Besides all this, the halls, by the side of which the night rooms are arranged, are separated from the passage, leading to the room, where the watch is on duty, by solid doors, with complicated fastenings, and this passage by other doors from the guard room. Thus the prisoners, by the construction of the night rooms, are removed as far as possible from the inspection, or control of the subordinate officers. In consequence of this, we shall see in the progress of the report, how many plans of mischief are devised and how many escapes are effected, from the arrangement and construction of the night rooms.

The SHOPS, too, and other places of labour, are scattered about, without form or unity of design; and the men are necessarily divided into small companies, so that it would require a much larger number of keepers, than are at present employed, to exercise a constant inspection of the men, without which there can be no thorough discipline. One of the buildings is divided into five small apartments, which would require as many officers, to keep a proper discipline; while in the whole of this building, with the present number of keepers, there can be but *one* officer. In the other apartments of this building, therefore, there may be traffic of the state's property, gambling, fighting, and other mischief, without detection.

The COOKERY, HOSPITAL and PLACE OF WORSHIP also, are inconvenient and concealed. The *cookery*, is directly under the centre building, far removed from the observation of a keeper. From the front window of the cookery, the prisoners have been in the habit of passing and repassing things to persons in the street. This is a very natural and easy outlet for the shoes, belonging to the state, which are missing. The *hospital* is an old room, not well ventilated, and is so impreg-

nated with the prison smell, that it would be likely to make a well person sick; and is so situated as not to be under inspection, or control, unless an officer is set apart for this duty; which cannot be done without an increase of officers. Finding this a convenient place of concealment, the prisoners under false pretences, leave their work, and get into it. The *chapel* is liable to similar objections. It is separated by four passages, and five doors, from the building, in which the prisoners are lodged; so that much time and labour are necessary in getting the prisoners into it. And besides, it is a small and uncomfortable place for the religious worship of so many men. It is in its size and character like the hospital. It is one of the old night rooms, used many years ago for the purpose of lodging the men, before the south wing was built.

The SENTINEL'S BOX, on the wall, is not well designed. It does not command the interior of the yard. There are many hiding places, where the men can screen themselves from the observation of the centinel, behind the shops, and other buildings, and many prisoners prepare themselves, without his knowledge, or the knowledge of the men under whose particular care they are placed, for attempting to escape. Besides, the centinel cannot command the north wall, on the north side; nor the west wall, on the west side; nor the south wall, on the south side. Discharged convicts, therefore, and persons ill disposed, can approach the prison from north, south and west, without the knowledge of the sentinel, on the wall, and furnish prohibited articles, and implements of mischief, and escape, to the convicts. We dwell the longer on the construction of the prison, in this respect, because we shall see the consequences of it, in the progress of the report, in the very great number of escapes, which have taken place, since the prison was built. Thus we have seen, that the guard room, the night rooms, the shops, the cookery, hospital, chapel and centinel box are not properly constructed.

2d. ON THE DISCIPLINE OF THE PRISON AS CONNECTED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION.

In a prison thus constructed, there can be no discipline. *The subordinate officers, are not subordinate.* The principal keeper has no good position, from which to command his men. It would take him a long time to go around the prison, and look them all up. Instead of which, he should have a position, from which, he can, at once overlook officers, as well as prisoners. This would effectually prevent those faults,

which the keeper of the prison, in his official report to the committee, says, page 2. "*he found requiring a remedy, 1st. great laxity on the part of the assistant keepers, in their duty; leaving the prisoners alone to the great neglect of their occupations, and the destruction of all system and order. 2d. the general prevalence of insubordination and the pre-existence of a perfect familiarity, and almost unrestrained intercourse among the prisoners, and between the prisoners and the assistant keepers; and 3d. the extensive indulgence of a system of traffic, between the prisoners and their keepers, in which articles made by them, and property over which they had no control, were exchanged with the keepers, for other commodities in a secret and covert manner.*" How are these things to be prevented, if the principal keeper is to be shut up in a room, from which he can see nothing, that is done by officers or men. The great principle of unceasing inspection is lost sight of, and these deeds of darkness are done, because they can be done in the dark. The way to correct them is, to bring them out into open day, so that the principal keeper can at any moment, with a single glance of his eye, inspect the whole establishment.

In consequence, partly of the same defect in the construction of the buildings; *the convicts are idle and disorderly.* The shops are so divided and subdivided, that there are nearly twice as many separate apartments, for the convicts, as there are officers. The convicts, therefore, must necessarily, be left alone. This single disadvantage, would break up the discipline of the best prison in the world. The officers leave the shops, and the convicts of course leave their work. In such circumstances, what security can there possibly be, that the convicts shall be all the time, profitably at work.

There are complaints not only, that the convicts are idle and disorderly in the shops; but they leave the shops, and go into the yard; and one witness testified that "he could not get them back, till they were sent for." The reason assigned by them for leaving the shops are from necessity; but in a well constructed prison, there is a water closet connected with every shop, which only one man can enter at a time, and which he can enter only from the shop, and this breaks up all necessity for leaving the shops, and all opportunity for false pretences, in regard to this thing, and leaves the keeper the command of his men; so that all excepting one, at every moment of time, are under his eye, and this one, who for a little time is removed from his observation, is in solitary, and it is known where he is.

As the prison is constructed, *there are various opportuni-*

ties for combination in mischief, among the prisoners, which are broken up at once in a well constructed prison. Much evidence is furnished to the committee by different witnesses, concerning a combination of men in the prison called the STAUNCH GANG. One witness says, "*they will lie, and swear to it; they will steal provision, and carry it off; they will lurk in the kitchen and steal other men's provision; they will threaten each others lives; they will make dirks; they will lie, steal, and gamble; they will make their own cards. I gave one of the inspectors one pack, and sent one pack to a friend in the country, that he might see what can be done in the prison. They have rules by which they are bound to each other; one rule is, if a man tells any thing, they will fall a foul of him and beat him.*"

Another witness was asked if he knew any thing about the STAUNCH GANG. He said there was such a GANG. *They would not tell of each other; if they did, they would beat the informer. He had known one stab another. They consider him a traitor, who informs of their evil deeds. Such men are called snitch.*

Another witness says, the STAUNCH GANG, are persons combined together to get away, and not to tell each others secrets "*If any one tells of them they fall on him and beat him. There was a black man nearly killed in the weave shop. They took the stone coal and beat him on the head; and, it cut like a knife. He was nearly killed.*" Another witness, when asked about the staunch gang, said "*he thought the state had better let them go, than be under such discipline. They have frequently drawn knives upon each other in the yard. In one instance one would have cut out the bowels of the other.*"

Much evidence has also been furnished to the committee, concerning the want of power to enforce discipline among the convicts, *in consequence of the manner in which the south wing is constructed, where the convicts sleep.* One witness says the prisoners will steal oil to burn in the cells, and carry sticks and strings to the cells, that they may pass things, from one to the other, and from door to door.

Another witness was asked if the convicts could communicate with each other, after they were locked up at night. He said, *they could communicate with each other, twenty of them.* Witness says, that the convicts often worked in the cells, on the sabbath, making hats; he had caught them at it and put a stop to it; but he did expect they carried it on. He gave the name of the convict who made a complete ladder in the cells to scale the walls; with which it was done. Witness was asked if he heard any conversation among the men, at night, he said "*that it was impossible to prevent*

it; and the former keeper was opposed to it, in the way the men are kept; they would be generally talking about roguery." Witness then gave a particular account of the instruction he heard an experienced thief give one less experienced, about the best way of raising twenty dollars to begin with after he got out. The latter was a young convict who was soon to be discharged.

Another witness says, "the men are so much together, it is very much against the interest of the institution. They talk about what they have done, and what they will do, and how they may get out."

Another witness believes, "that the prisoners have had knowledge of the difficulties existing in the government of the prison. He has heard the prisoners talk about it, in the cells. He has heard them talk about the change in the government of the prison, in the cells at night. He has heard the prisoners after they were locked up in the cells conversing with discharged prisoners, in the street. No longer ago than four weeks, two men came along and began to converse, and he stopped them."

Witness says further, "in the cells, one night, two of the prisoners fought, one bit the others finger, and a piece of the bone came out. They are put together old and young without regard to their crime. They lay their beds on the floor. They are single beds, but when there are three, they make them up all as one, and sleep altogether. They sometimes want to be separated, because they quarrel."

Another witness has often heard the prisoners talking from the south wing, with persons on the out side. He has caught them at it, late at night. They once shot an arrow attached to a string, into the street, and the string was found extending from the night room to the street—supposed to be for the purpose of drawing in something. Witness does not think, any thing more can be done for the benefit of the state, in that prison, than is now done.

Another witness speaking of putting three or four in a room, at night, and the things going on among the men, after they were locked up, concluded by saying, "as to that prison it is a mere burlesque on prisons."

Owing to the construction of the prison, it is very difficult, if not impossible to prevent traffic with the prisoners, which is subversive of all discipline. In a properly constructed prison, it is the impression upon every mind, both of convict and assistant keeper, I am constantly under inspection. Every thing which I do will be seen. But there are so many hiding places in this prison, and so few facilities for inspection, that this seems, not at all, to be the impression, on the minds of either keeper or convict.

The principal keeper says, "when he became keeper of the prison, he found an extensive traffic between the prisoners and under keepers, particularly in the articles of straw hats and whip stalks. When asked to give a statement of the principal evils, which he had discovered in the prison. He said the shoe shop was a place of resort for the keepers; some of the keepers told him, that another was in the habit of going into the kitchen, and spending some time there, while his men went at loose ends. He watched the keeper of whom this complaint was made and found that it was so. Since this he has found it of little use to attempt to enforce any orders, and has had enough to do to get along any way." He then gave a particular account of some hats, sold by a convict to a keeper, and the price put upon them by the convict.

Another witness stated, "that convicts had made hats to sell, it was likely they had made other things : they would be taken out and sold. He believed one of the keepers had taken out things, and sold them for the convicts." This keeper afterwards acknowledged to the committee, that he had done so. Witness further says, "the convicts get tobacco, I do not know how they get it, the proceeds of hats, and other things might buy it. There are many ways they have in common." Witness could not watch his men so as to know, where they went. There were more of them to watch him. They might go out if they pleased, and if he saw them about the wagons, which came into the yard, he would drive them away. Witness said, that some time last spring, one of the keepers sold articles for the convicts. He understood the principal keeper was opposed to it, but it was done. I believe it was done in both their times.

Another witness, testifies, "that one of the keepers told him, that the old convict who takes care of the cloth from the weave shop, is never without money : that he used to traffic in tobacco, buy it and sell it out again."

Another witness, a citizen of Trenton, thinks he has seen one of the keepers carry articles to a certain store, and exchange them for the convicts. The keeper and store keeper referred to, were both called, and acknowledged, that it was so. Witness did not believe, that the traffic was confined to this keeper.

Another witness knows, "that many articles were made in the prison by the convicts, but he does not know how they got out."

Another witness, one of the keepers, says, "he has thrown tobacco on the ground for convicts." This was done to avoid an order which prohibits assistant keepers from giving them tobacco. Witness further says, "that his children have taken things from prisoners, and sold them, in exchange for other ar-

ticles. He believes, that all the keeper's children have done it. Witness explains by saying, "that they went on the wall, and let down strings to take things up; that it has also been done through the basement story windows, in front of the house with convicts in the cookery." Many of these things, it would be very difficult, if not impossible to prevent, in the buildings as they are now constructed. There is no point of observation from which there can be a thorough supervision, by the principal keeper of the whole establishment; but on the contrary, very many hiding places, besides a guard room for the principal keeper, and his deputy, from which they can only look into the street, and see nothing that is done in the prison.

For the same reason, the discipline is interrupted by a knowledge in the prison, among the convicts, of almost every thing that is done abroad.

The principal keeper says, that "things which take place in town are known to the prisoners within twenty-four hours, which could not be known except from the keepers; there is such a familiarity between them, that these things are all communicated." This familiarity, between keepers and convicts could soon be broken up, by the principal keeper, if he was faithful, if the construction was such, that he could from his office overlook the whole establishment, and see keepers and convicts at the same time.

Another witness said, that "it was too much the case, that there was a familiarity between the convicts and keepers. He says the convicts seem to know most every thing that is going on."

Another witness thinks "the convicts know what is going on in Trenton," and says "they will know within a month what is going on here to day."

He says they have newspapers; "I have seen papers more than once; but did not see any one give them to the convicts." This is the great difficulty in this prison, almost any thing may be done, (there are so many hiding places to do mischief,) and the responsible officer cannot see who does it.

Owing in part to the construction of the prison, the discipline is such, that riots are frequent, and it is difficult to prevent them: there are many places for concealment and necessarily from the construction, frequent opportunities for combination, out of which these riots have grown. The principal keeper said, "he had lately had an attempt at riot, and there was another riot, since he had been there, in the weave shop. The keeper was absent from his shop contrary to the regulations of the prison. The rule is, that no keeper shall leave his shop till the relief comes. This rule is violated every day." This is the testimony of the principal keeper. While the assistant keepers say truly in

their defence, that there are more shops, and places of labor for them to oversee, than there are keepers; and they are obliged to go from one to the other; consequently an opportunity for riot is afforded when the keeper of a shop is absent.

Another witness testified, "that they had pretty severe riots. If any one tells of them, they fall on him and beat him. It has been done four or five times in a year." One of the inspectors testified, "that the prison had been in a regular state of insubordination, during the last year." Another witness, one of the contractors testified, "that he saw a very alarming riot, at the prison. When I went to the door, said witness, there could not have been less than thirty convicts, between the two shops. One of the keepers was doing all, that he could to suppress it; another threatened to fire upon them from the wall; another keeper came to the gate and called for a musket. He was as pale as death. There was some private difficulty, between the two convicts, and the others took sides. I heard one of the convicts swear, that he would not leave the yard, till he had been the death of the other." If the prison was so constructed as to separate the convicts at night, and admit of keeping them in their places, in the day time, under constant inspection, both from the keepers in the shops, and those in the guard room, these riots would be effectually prevented.

Again, the discipline of the prison is destroyed by the keepers sleeping at their posts, and as the prison is constructed, the safety of the prison has frequently been endangered at night. The principal keeper testifies, "that during the summer, he found the assistant keepers sleeping on their posts at night. They were called before the board of inspectors, and acknowledged that they had done so." The board notified them through the keeper, that they should expect them hereafter to do their duty. After this the assistant keepers locked the principal keeper, out of the Hall, which led to the room, where they were on duty, one week, which he attempted to enter several times, but could not. The assistant keeper alledged as a reason for doing this, that the safety of the prison was in danger from discharged convicts, who had formed the design of coming over the wall, in the night; entering the passage, which leads to the room, where the watch is on duty; securing the watch, and releasing the prisoners. About this time, according to the testimony of both the assistant and principal keeper, two or more discharged convicts did actually come over the wall, in the night into the yard; the dogs gave the alarm; the keepers were at once on duty; the ladder was found where they had scaled the wall; the alarm bell was rung; but the villains made their escape. The principal keeper supposes that their object was plunder, as some shoes

were found which they had taken from the shop, near the place where they had scaled the wall. The assistant keepers suppose, that their object was the release of the prisoners.

Not a great while after this, there was another alarm of a similar kind, when the principal keeper was not at home ; but it was not satisfactorily ascertained, whether at this time, any person from without, came over the wall. The result of the whole was, that a different arrangement was made between the principal and the assistant keepers, by which the former was supplied with a key to open the door of the passage, leading to the night watch, and the night watch were supplied with a key, that they might secure themselves against the assaults of discharged convicts. This would seem reasonable, so far as the safety of the prison is endangered from discharged convicts; but it is not calculated to keep the night watch awake while on duty, because they are so securely locked, and concealed from observation, in a small room by themselves, that they might sleep on their posts, and still not be detected ; for when the principal keeper comes to unlock the door of the passage leading to the watch room, the noise would be likely to awaken the night watch, if he were asleep, so that the principal keeper would not know, whether he had been asleep or not.

There is another difficulty about the place where the night watch is on duty in this prison. If the watch is awake, he cannot see from the room where he is usually stationed, any part of the building, where the convicts are lodged. He must leave his station, and go out into the passage, and pass through one or two doors, before he comes to the only place where he can see the night rooms, and even then he must go into four stories, and peep over the tops of eight doors, before he can inspect forty cells, and after all, he can only see the doors, he cannot see the interior of the cells, nor know, whether the convicts are there, or whether they have escaped through the roof or external walls into the yard.

In a prison properly constructed, the place where the night watch is on duty, is not liable to such objections ; because the principal keeper from his private apartment, at any moment, can look in upon him, and see that he is awake, without the knowledge of the night watch ; and the night watch, from the open space in which he is placed, by changing his position, 30 feet, without passing through any door, can command the doors and windows of every night room in the building, and at the same time, if a convict gets out of his cell, he is not only exposed to the fire of the centinel, but he is still in prison, for it is a prison within a prison. He has got out of one prison into another. He has got out of his cell, but he has gotten into a place, where he

is exposed to the fire of the centinel, and if the alarm is given, to the fire of the musketry of all the keepers in the guard room.

Not so in our state prison, the convicts may get out of their night rooms, into the open yard ; thence unseen in the dark, over the yard wall, into the street. The construction is, therefore, such, that the night watch may sleep at his post, and the convicts escape with impunity.

3d. OF ESCAPES.

To shew, that this is not a representation, unsupported by facts, we have obtained information from the records of the prison, concerning the *escapes*, which have actually been effected since the prison was built. This list is now before us, it contains the names of ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHT convicts, who have made their escape. This is more than one twelfth part, of all who have been committed to the prison ; a proof of the insecurity of the prison, so far as our knowledge extends, in the history of prisons, without a parallel.

Of the whole number who thus escaped, *ten* escaped, *one* at a time, *sixteen*, *two* at a time, *twenty-one*, *three* at a time, *twenty four*, *four* at a time, *five* at one time, *fourteen*, *seven* at a time, and *eighteen*, *nine* at a time. Total ONE HUNDRED and EIGHT. Males *one hundred and three*, females *five*. One, escaped by making a hole in the door, one by a false key, two, who were at work on the new cells, three by forcing the hall door, four, through the yard gate, four, in a manner not specified, five, through the grates without sawing, five, by sawing the grates, twenty nine, by scaling the wall and forty-nine, through the roof, walls and doors of the main building. Total ONE HUNDRED and EIGHT. Twenty-eight were retaken the same day, twenty-five after more than one day, and in less than one year, six, were gone, time not specified, two were gone one year, one two years, one three years, and fifty-five were never retaken. Total ONE HUNDRED and EIGHT. In these troubles one keeper was stabbed, three prisoners broke into the guard room, and got two guns with which they escaped, two prisoners were shot, but not killed, and one was shot dead.

The official document, from the prison records, from which these results are taken, is herewith submitted, marked A :

The amount paid in apprehending the above prisoners, was seven hundred and twenty-eight dollars and three cents.

4th OF PUNISHMENT.

Notwithstanding, the number of escapes from this prison, there does not appear to be any want of sufficiently severe punishments for misdemeanor.

Solitary confinement on a scanty allowance of bread with cold water is much used. The period of time not unfrequently extends to twenty and thirty days, and this too in the winter season in cells warmed by no fire. The suffering in these circumstances is intense; the convicts lose their flesh and strength and frequently their health; they are sometimes so far broken down, as to be unable to work, when they are discharged into the yard, and to require nearly as much time in the hospital, to recruit them, as they have had in the cells, to break them down.

The committee saw a man in the hospital, last week, just taken from the cells, where he had been punished for misdemeanor, about twenty days. He was prostrate upon the bed, emaciated and unable to work, and complained of much pain. The physician called the attention of the committee to his pulse, which he remarked was very feeble. The keeper thought it would be some time before he would be able to work.

Besides punishments, in this mode, the records shew, that chains are much used; sometimes with a fifty six attached to them, and sometimes for the purpose of chaining the prisoner to the place where he is at work. A number of the prisoners, at the present time, have chains upon them, and the committee saw one, twelve or fourteen years of age, who had on, an iron neck yoke, with arms extending 18 or 20 inches each way from his head, which was said to be, not for punishment, but to prevent his getting through the grates.

The following list is furnished, by the clerk of the prison, who has been there twenty years. It shews the number of prisoners, that is supposed to have died, in consequence of being severely punished, in the cells, for disobedience: William Thomas, Thomas Stewart, John O. Brien, William Bower, John Brown, Tunis Cole, Aaron Strattain, Thomas Somes, Pomp Cisco, and Peter Marks—10

The documents from which this statement is taken, is herewith submitted, marked B.

If the prison were so constructed, as to separate the men at night, and keep them perfectly still, and thus break up all such combinations, as that of the *Staunch gang*; and if the shops were so constructed as to admit of a constant inspection, so as to keep the prisoners in their places, at their work in silence, there would be comparatively little need of severe punishments, because rebellion and villany would be prevented in the very beginning.

5th. OF DEATHS.

The whole number of DEATHS, in the prison, including the ten above mentioned, is *forty-nine*,

The whole number of prisoners committed, is one thousand two hundred and six. The average number of prisoners, taking the whole period of time, is supposed to be fifty; which gives a bill of mortality of about three per cent. which is three per cent less, than that of the Walnut street prison in Philadelphia, and about two per cent. more, than that of the prisons at Auburn and Wethersfield.

The document *herewith* submitted, from which the above is taken, is marked C.

6th. OF RECOMMITMENTS.

The RECOMMITMENTS, are out of ninety, the whole number, *seven* a second time; *two* a third time, and *two* a fourth time. CASES OF REFORMATION, we have heard of few, or none. At Auburn, out of six hundred, the whole number, the recommitments are, *seventeen* a second time, and from latest information, *none* a third. CASES OF REFORMATION at Auburn, out of two hundred and six discharged convicts, ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SIX well authenticated.

7th. OF EXPENSES.

Some particulars in regard to the expenses and earnings of the New-Jersey State Prison, as furnished from the treasury department, are as follows:

The expenses exceeded the earnings, in four years, from 1800, to 1803 inclusive	\$21,776 29
In nine years, between 1810 and 1822	58,651 33
In eight years from 1822 to 1829 inclusive	46,425 44
Total loss, including the loss in the periods specified above	164,963 81
Average loss to the state, annually, from September 1798 to September 1829, thirty-one years	5,304 05

The official document from which these results are taken is herewith submitted, marked D.

How can these things be? They are not satisfactorily explained. According to the return to the committee from the prison, the food of the prisoners per day, costs 4 cts. 8 MILLS.

The clothing	1	5
Incidental expenses	2	9
	—	—

Total amount excluding pay of officers	9	3
Pay of officers for each man daily	9	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expense of each convict daily	18	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Of the whole number of convicts, sixteen are employed in shoe making, each of whom, as an easy days work, is said to make one pair of coarse shoes per day. The price paid by contractors for making such shoes, is for each pair, *thirty-three cents*, the state to find shoe thread, &c.

When any part of the shoemakers are employed for the state, the shoes which they make are charged to the state, at one dollar and twenty-five cents a pair, for common shoes, and other work at a similar rate. Why then do not the shoe makers earn from twenty-five to thirty cents per day; and not as they are returned only eighteen cents and nine mills. If the returns are properly made, it must be because they are not furnished with work, and kept at it. When the committee visited the prison several shoe makers were sitting in idleness; because the contractors had not furnished them with work. One of the inspectors testified before the committee, as follows: "no longer ago than yesterday, I went to the prison, and the keeper of the shoe shop was not in his place. I found only two of the men at work; as soon as I stepped in, the convicts said "*whist*" and went to their places like a parcel of rabbits. I went round the prison, and when I came back, the keeper was in his place, and I gave him a piece of my mind." This business of the *shoe shop*, is the most important branch of business, *except one*, in the prison; that is, the *weaving business*.

In the weaver's shop, thirty-nine hands are employed. This is a branch of business, in which most of the hands in the Baltimore penitentiary are employed, which has cleared for the state over and above every expense, in the last eight years, upwards of *seventy thousand dollars*.

In the weavers shop, in the New-Jersey state prison, thirty-nine hands are employed and twenty-six looms. The cheapest work done on these looms is done for two and a half cents per yard, which is about half a cent less per yard, than is paid for the same kind of work, done for the same persons, in town. The task in winter is ten yards per day; but the average quantity of work done is supposed by the keeper, not to exceed nine yards, in winter. Allowing it to be nine yards, this would give the earnings twenty-two and a half cents per day, at the lowest prices, in the shortest days. In the summer season, the task is fourteen yards per day. Suppose them in

summer, to fall short of their task, one yard per day, as in winter, and weave but thirteen yards; they would earn thirty two and a half cts. per day in summer. This is supposing the lowest prices for all the looms. But many of the looms weave cloth for three cents, and three and a half cents per yard, and the country looms for ten cents a yard. In such cases the business is much more advantageous, to the state, than in the cases above mentioned. But with the most favorable supposition to the weaving department, and the most unfavorable to the state, it appears, that the men, in the weave shops can earn, in winter, each twenty-two and a half cents a day, and in summer thirty-two and a half cents per day; or an average for the whole year of twenty-seven and a half cents per day. The ordinary days work, in town, for hired hands, is twenty yards, and the lowest price three cents per yard, by which a weaver in town at the most moderate estimate, in weaving the same goods, can earn sixty cents per day. But in the prison, according to the official returns to the committee the weavers earn, but eighteen cents per day; or if the spoolers are included, they earn but twelve cents and a fraction. Thus in this most extensive branch of business, if the returns are correctly made, the men do not pay their part of the expenses by six cents and eight mills per day each. They earn twelve cents, and they cost eighteen cents and eight mills. Here, to, the explanation is the same, as in the shoe shop. The contractors do not supply work, or the overseer does not keep them at it. The principal keeper says, "that many hundred days are lost in consequence of the contractors not supplying work," and one of the inspectors testified, "that he had been into the shop and found the overseer asleep at his post." The same witness says, "the prisoners leave their shops when they choose, and things are pretty much out of sorts at the prison."

Besides weavers and shoe makers, it appears from the official returns, that **TWO MEN** were employed as coopers, and this department produced for the state from the labor of these men, in the course of the year, *fifteen dollars and seventy-three cents*. Four were employed in sawing stone, and this department produced for the labor of these *four men*, in the course of the year, twenty-nine dollars and thirty-two cents; **THREE**, were employed as tailors, and **FIVE** in spinning; but the proceeds of their labor cannot be ascertained from the returns; **TWENTY-NINE** promiscuous hands, including all the above except the weavers and shoe makers, having their food and clothes found them, earned on an average, according to the official returns, *five cents* per day each. From the same returns it appears, that the whole number earned on an ave-

rage ten cents and four mills per day, and cost eighteen cents and eight mills.

The committee would not express an opinion, whether these very unfavorable results, provided the returns are correctly made, are to be attributed, to which of the three following causes, in the greatest degree : to the construction of the prison, which admits of such combination in villainy, during the night, and such concealment in idleness during the day : to the neglect of the overseers : or to the imperfection of the contracts, which do not make the contractors liable if the men in their employ are not supplied with work. All three, in the opinion of the committee, are evils demanding a speedy remedy.

That they are not necessary evils, subjecting the state to such heavy expenses, for the support of the prison, is evident from a comparison between the State Prison in New-Jersey, and the new State Prison in Connecticut, in regard to their expenses and earnings during the last year.

The New-Jersey prison had *ninety* prisoners: the Connecticut *one hundred and thirty four*.

The expenses of the New-Jersey prison were,	\$6,199.00
The expenses of the Connecticut prison were,	5,876.13

The expenses of the New-Jersey prison for the support of ninety prisoners, exceed the expenses of the Connecticut prison for the support of one hundred and thirty-four prisoners,	322.87
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The earnings of the New-Jersey prison were,	3,427.98
The earnings of the Connecticut prison were,	9,105.54

The earnings of the Connecticut prison exceed the earnings of the New-Jersey prison,	5,677.56
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And the <i>expenses</i> of the Connecticut prison are less than the expenses of the N. Jersey prison,	322.87
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This is the view which the committee have taken of the expenses and earnings of the prison.

The document from which the above results are taken, is herewith submitted, marked E.

Besides, among the official documents returned to the committee, it is stated, that one hundred and thirty-three dollars and twenty-one cents, are due from the state to the convicts for

overstint. This, however, makes no part of the trial balance sheet, as it ought, if it is due. The under keepers, say it is due, the principal keeper, says it is not. From one sheet of the official returns, it would appear to be due. From the other, on which the other debts of the institution are stated, and the trial balance sheet, it appears not to be due.

One of the inspectors testifies, "that the accounts do not shew exactly the amount made or lost. He understood from the clerk, that there were out standing bills not handed in. He coincides with the other witnesses, that the inventory was taken generally by the keeper and principally by copying the old inventory, so that the state could not know from year to year what is lost." Once in several years the inventory would be taken right. By this mode of taking the inventory, it will be perceived, there would be a heavy loss all at once, while the state would appear from year to year, not to be loosing more than *five thousand dollars annually*.

**OF THE FOOD, FUEL, NUMBER OF OFFICERS, LOCATION,
AND REMEDY FOR EXISTING EVILS.**

The principal articles of *food*, with the quantities and prices, during the last year were

273 cwt. 2 qrs. 17 lbs. of rye flour, from \$1 62½ to 2 50 per cwt.	\$449 51
40 cwt. corn meal from \$1 to 1 12½ per cwt.	43 12
Other flour and meal bought by the bushel and barrel	101 37
Total cost of bread stuff	<hr/> \$594 00 <hr/>
6129 lbs. of beef from 3 to 3½ cts. per lb.	\$197 16
4352 do. pork from 4½ to 5 cents	206 61
1969 do. hogs heads from 2½ to 3 cents	48 10
7500 herring at \$1 per thousand	7 50
1 beefs head	25
Total cost of meat	<hr/> \$459 62 <hr/>
1232 gallons of molasses from 28 to 40 cents per gallon	428 16½
178 bushels of potatoes from 23 to 33 cents per bushel	53 12½
Total	<hr/> \$481 29 <hr/>

RECAPITULATION.

Bread stuffs	44,699 lbs.	cost	\$594 01½
Meats	12,450 "	"	451 87½
Molasses	39,424 gills	"	428 6½
Potatoes	13,392 pints	"	53 21½
			<hr/>
Other and smaller articles of food			\$1527 18 66 01½
			<hr/>
Total expense of food			\$1593 19½
			<hr/>

The proportion of each article, which this would give to each man daily, estimating the number of men at ninety, is

1 lb. 4 oz. 3-10 of bread stuffs.
 6 " 2-10 of meat.
 1 gill 2-10 of molasses.
 1 gill 6-10 of potatoes.

It will be observed, that the molasses costs almost as much as the meat, and eight times as much as the vegetables. The committee are satisfied, that this is out of all just proportion. That the molasses should be diminished from one gill and 2-10 to ½ a gill, which would save on the molasses two hundred and thirty-nine dollars 76 cents, annually. That the sum thus saved on the molasses, be expended for beef, so far as to make the ration of beef one half more than it now is. The allowance of beef the last year has been only three ounces to each man per day, the cost of which was one hundred and ninety-seven dollars, 16 cents. The change we recommend is, that out of the two hundred and twenty-nine dollars 70 cents, saved on molasses, one hundred and ninety-seven dollars 16 cents, be expended to purchase beef, which will give six ounces of beef instead of *three* ounces. This diminution of molasses, and increase of beef, will enable the men to work with more strength, and we shall still have forty-two dollars 60 cents, saved on the molasses.

We recommend further, that the indian meal be diminished from 6 ounces and 6-10 per day to 4 ounces. The men, many of them, complain that they have too much mush and molasses. This will save forty-four dollars annually, on the mush. That the money thus saved shall be expended for potatoes, which will increase the quantity of potatoes from one gill and 6-10 to three gills.

We recommend also, that the rye flour be diminished from 14 ounces and 9-10 to 12 ounces, which will save on this ar-

ticle one hundred and ten dollars; that thirty-eight dollars and forty cents of the sum thus saved be expended for potatoes, which will increase the allowance of potatoes to one pint, and that the remaining seventy-one dollars 60 cents saved on the rye flour, together with the forty-two dollars 60 cents saved on the molasses, be expended for beef, which will increase the allowance of beef to eight ounces per day, by increasing the expenses of the state on the provisions nineteen dollars 24 cents, annually.

Any two men in the weave shop, on the custom work, in consideration of this change and improvement, in the ration, may easily make up this deficiency, by the additional work performed. The ration when changed will stand thus per day, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. rye flour, and $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. corn meal, $\frac{1}{2}$ pound beef, and 3 ounces of pork, 1 pint of potatoes, and $\frac{1}{2}$ a gill of molasses, and the smaller items, salt &c. amounting to \$66 01 $\frac{1}{2}$ unaltered.

This ration would nearly resemble the ration in those prisons where the men more than support themselves.

The *fuel* required in the prison, as it is now constructed, amounted last year to *one hundred and one cords and a half* of wood, twelve and a half tons of stone coal, and two hundred and ninety-four bushels of charcoal, at an expense of five hundred and twenty-three dollars 93 cents. Eight stoves are used to warm forty night rooms, while in a properly constructed prison, two stoves would warm one hundred and fifty. Twenty-two fires are used to warm the whole establishment, and as the prison is constructed, the committee do not see how any of these fires can be dispensed with. While in a well constructed prison, the committee are convinced from the returns of the new prison in Connecticut, that the number of fires required is so much less as to diminish the expense in the article of fuel more than three hundred dollars annually.

The *number of officers* required in this prison to promote a wholesome discipline, must be according to the testimony which the committee has received, seven, where there are now but three; that is an increase of four, at four hundred dollars per annum each. This would increase the expenses sixteen hundred dollars annually, while the present number of officers in a well constructed prison would secure a better discipline, than the number thus increased, in the old prison. The difference of expense then, in the old prison, and in a new and well constructed prison, as to the number of officers and the fuel, would be one thousand nine hundred dollars annually, or the interest of thirty-one thousand six hundred and fifty six dollars, a sum sufficient to build a new prison.

The *location* is unfavorable for business. No man would think of selecting, that as a good place for the transaction of a large business. If Trenton is the town for the prison, the present site is not the place for it. It is without natural advantages. It was put where it is, because a man gave the land to build it on. It is estimated that the least difference between the expense of transacting the business of the prison where it is, and in town, would be three hundred dollars annually. The prison then, with its present location and construction has physical disadvantages, viz : on the location, annually \$300 ; on fuel \$300 ; and on the number of officers \$1600, which would make a difference of two thousand two hundred dollars annually between the old prison and a new one, which is the interest of thirty-five thousand dollars, a sum more than sufficient to build a new prison.

These considerations are entirely independent of the greater security, industry and more productive labor, which can be secured in a new prison ; by breaking up the traffic, combinations in villainy, attempts to escape, riots, fighting, gambling, making cards and counterfeit coin. The committee see no reason why these evils cannot be removed in New-Jersey as well as in Connecticut, nor why the state prison in New-Jersey like that in Connecticut, should not, instead of being an expense to the state of five thousand dollars annually, be a source of income of three thousand dollars annually.

The directors of the new prison in Connecticut say in their last report to the legislature, " We found a system in operation at the old prison, which had for ten years previous to its abandonment, occasioned to the state an expense of \$84,634.05 over and above its earnings, which sum had been drawn from the treasury, being an average deficit of more than \$8,400 per annum. We found the moral results of the system to be more unfortunate, than the pecuniary, and that all its tendencies were to debase and corrupt the convict. The new prison for the year ending on the first of April last, after defraying every expense for its management and support has earned to the state \$3229.41 : making a difference to the state between the old and new prison of \$11,629.41 annually: an annuity more than sufficient, in three years, to cover the expense of building the new prison.

" The results of the experiment say the directors," are now before the public. We can truly say, they have exceeded our highest anticipations, both as it respects their moral and pecuniary character.

Your committee have yet to learn why such results cannot be realized in New-Jersey, as well as in Connecticut.

Thus the committee, on the state prison, has endeavoured to submit the facts, in the case now before them, in a full and impartial manner. These have produced, in the minds of the committee, an unanimous opinion, that the *construction* of the prison is *altogether wrong* and does not admit of being *essentially corrected* in the old establishment. The *discipline in consequence, in great part, of the construction*, may be called *disorder* rather than discipline. The *escapes* have been, so far as our knowledge extends, without a parallel, *principally in consequence of the imperfection of the buildings*. The *punishments*, from the same disadvantages in construction, have been very severe, to prevent riots, insurrections and escapes. The committee *greatly lament* the facts in evidence, on this part of the subject. The *deaths* are more numerous, than they would be in a prison well constructed and well ventilated. The *re-commitments* are numerous in proportion to the number of convicts, and the *cases of reformation, few or none*; because the men are *associated together day and night for purposes of mutual corruption*, and this cannot be prevented in these buildings.

The *expense* of supporting the establishment is *very heavy*, and this too, in great part, *because the men cannot be kept at their business*.

The *difficulties among the officers are greatly to be lamented*. If the construction of the prison is such, that the prisoners provoke the under officers, because they do not stay in their places, and mind their business, and the under officers provoke the principal keeper because *they* do not stay in *their* places and mind *their* business; *this is no sufficient excuse for passion, profane swearing, and wrangling among the officers; these things should have no place in this public institution, which has written over its door "THE NEW-JERSEY PENITENTIARY."*

We have recommended an alteration in the food of the prisoners, for the purpose of giving them more health and strength to labour, without any considerable additional *expense* for food to the state; and we think, we have shewn that there is a difference, necessarily, of *more than two thousand dollars a year*, in the expense of supporting the old prison, and a new one, in consequence of the quantity of fuel, and the number of officers required in the old prison, and the inconvenience of its location. In this connection, we think, we have shewn, also, from the example of the state of Connecticut, *how the state of New-Jersey can save, in a few years, by building a new prison, a sum more than sufficient to defray all the expenses of its construction.*

The Committee, therefore, recommend, with entire unanimity, the building of a new prison, on the general plan of those at Auburn, in New-York, and at Wethersfield, in Connecticut.

The Committee beg leave to state to the legislature, that the Prison Discipline Society at Boston, has appropriated and expended in our state prison for the purpose of moral and religious instruction, the sum of two hundred and seventy-one dollars, in different sums and at different periods, which amount they recommend should be refunded to the society.

In concluding the report, the committee consider themselves bound to acknowledge publicly the great benefit and advantage which they have received from the Rev. Louis Dwight, the secretary of the prison discipline society in Boston.

His intimate acquaintance with every thing touching the subject of prison discipline, and the information which the committee has derived from him, have greatly facilitated the researches and examinations of the committee, and highly merit the thanks of the legislature.

A. HOWELL, }
AMZI DODD, } *Committee of Council.*

CHARLES HILLARD,
LITTLETON KIRKPATRICK, }
FERDINAND S. SCHENCK, } *Committee of Assembly.*
ISAAC HINCHMAN,

APPENDIX.

DOCUMENT (B)

Shewing the number of prisoners that is supposed to have died, in consequence of being severely punished in the cells for disobedience, &c.

William Thomas	died	17 December	1809.
Thomas Stewart	"	23 July	1811.
John O. Brian	"	6 Sept.	1823.
William Bower	"	25 April	1816.
John Brown	"	10 Sept.	1821.
Tunis Cole	"	22 August	1822.
Aaron Stattain	"	20 Nov.	1827.
Thomas Somes	"	29 Nov.	1827.
Pomp Cisco	"	29 Sept.	1828.
Peter Marks	"	29 Feb.	1820.

DOCUMENT (D)

New-Jersey Treasury Department,

Trenton Jan. 30th 1830.

To His Excellency Peter D. Vroom, Esq. :

SIR, in compliance with the request contained in your note of this morning, I herewith annex a statement, shewing the general as well as the annual operation of the New-Jersey state prison, on this department, from 1797, the time the first appropriation was made for its erection, up to 1829, inclusive. The statment includes all expenses incurred in transportation of prisoners, costs of prosecution, erection of prison, officers salaries, &c. &c. by which it appears that the annual average loss is about five thousand dollars ; the whole loss being \$164,963.01. It will also appear by the statement, that in 1809, 1810, 1812, and 1813, there were balances in favour of the prison. These results did not arise from the operation of the prison in any of those years. It grew out of the sales of articles manufactured in former years. From the best information, that I have been able to obtain, I think myself safe in saying, that the prison has not supported itself in any one year since its erection.

I am with great respect, your obedient humble servant,

CHARLES PARKER.

STATEMENT AS FOLLOWS:

1797	Paid	prison agent		\$14,327 18
1798	do.	do.		13,545 92
1799	do.	do.		13,285 45
1800	do.	keeper	\$5,579 03	
1801	do.	do.	5,079 27	
1802	do.	do.	3,255 13	
1803	do.	do.	7,862 86	
			<hr/>	21,776 29
1804	do.	do.	3,179 38	
1805	do.	do.	2,856 95	
			<hr/>	6,036 33
				<hr/>
				\$68,968 17
1806	do.	do.	\$2,607 29	
1807	do.	do.	1,884 65	
1808	do.	do.	2,486 73	
			<hr/>	6,978 67
				<hr/>
				\$75,946 84

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1309	by	received from keeper	5 146 21	
1810	"	do. do.	8,910 50	
1812	"	do. do.	1,264 84	
1813	"	do. do.	738 25	
			<hr/>	16,059 80
				<hr/>
		Balance against the prison		\$59,887 04

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1811	to	paid keeper	\$7,443 34	
1814	"	do. do.	4,135 50	
1815	"	do. do.	3,980 00	
1816	"	do. do.	6,354 55	
1817	"	do. do.	8,770 75	
1818	"	do. do.	9,859 24	
1819	"	do. do.	6,065 61	
1820	"	do. do.	1,872 50	
1821	"	do. do.	10,169 84	
			<hr/>	58,651 33
1822	"	do. do.	5,805 00	
		Transportation &c.	1,678 49	
			<hr/>	7,483 49

1823 to	paid keeper	3,725 00	
	Transportation &c.	2,740 27	
			6,465 27
1824	" paid keeper	6,331 00	
	Transportation, &c.	2,160 31	
			8,491 31
1825	" paid keeper	3,350 00	
	Transportation	1,444 43	
			4,794 43
1826	" paid keeper	2,025 00	
	Transportation, &c.	1,654 89	
			3,679 89
1827	" paid keeper	2,987 50	
	Transportation	1,790 24	
			4,777 74
1828	" paid keeper	3,029 37	
	Transportation, &c.	2,818 94	
			5,848 31
1829	" paid keeper	3,125 48	
	Transportation, &c.	1,759 52	
			4,885 00
	Total		\$164,963 81

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New-Jersey Prison—90 Prisoners, 1829.

Expenses		Earnings	
Provisions	\$1593.19 $\frac{3}{4}$	Nail Factory	\$10.07 $\frac{1}{2}$
Clothing	507.17	Cooper Shop	15.73 $\frac{3}{4}$
Incidentals	345.12 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plaster	355.35
Furniture	18.15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Sundry Account	126.88
Repairs	65.94	Shoe-shop or Cord- wainers }	1106.93 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fuel	513.93	Weaving account	1708.91
Profit & loss Account }	38.00	Stone sawing Account	29.32
		Interest Account	75.67 $\frac{1}{2}$
	\$3081.50 $\frac{3}{4}$		
Pay of officers	3117.50		\$3427.98
			3081.50
	\$6199.00 $\frac{3}{4}$		\$346.48

Connecticut Prison—134 Prisoners, 1829.

Expenses		Earnings
Provision	1863.03	Smiths Shop 474.39
Clothing & Bedding	495.20	Cooper's Shop 1258.88
Fuel and Incidental	} 3378.78	Shoe Shop 3540.62
expenses including		Nail Shop 1771.64
the salary of the		Carpenter's Shop 1363.72
officers		Tailor's Shop 15.84
Hospital	139.12	Labour of Lumpers 49.35
	<hr/> 5876.13	<hr/> 614.58
Earnings of Connecticut		\$9,105.54
Do. N. Jersey		<hr/> 3,427.98
Difference		<hr/> 5,677.56
Expenses of N. Jersey, more than Connecticut		\$322.86½
Earnings of do. less than do.		<hr/> 5,677.56